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LETTER DATED 13 APRIL 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the letter dated 13 April 1995 addressed to you by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mate Granić.

I would request your kind assistance in distributing the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 13 April 1995 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you of a serious deterioration of the security situation in the southern part of Croatia resulting from an unprovoked artillery attack aimed at the Dubrovnik Ćilipi airport. The Bosnian Serb paramilitary units fired a total of twenty-two 130-mm shells today from 1125 to 1300 local time. Twelve shells impacted on the grounds of the airport, and the others in the nearby villages of Radovčići and Močići. The aggressor utilized its artillery positions from the territory of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina east of Nevesinje, at Grab-Tuli. At 1700 local time one shell impacted in the town of Orašac near Zaton in Dubrovnik region, causing the death of one person and severe injuries to three more.

The aircraft fuel depot at the Dubrovnik airport, located 200 m from the terminal, was hit at 1240 and destroyed. The resulting fire has been brought under control.

I enclose a map of the Dubrovnik airport, with markings of the location and time of impacts within and in the vicinity of the perimeter of the airport. Dispersion of the impacts clearly shows that this attack was not at random, but that the new terminal building was directly targeted.

Further, I have to inform you that yesterday, 12 April 1995, Serb paramilitary forces in the occupied territories of Croatia in the vicinity of Slunj, in Zone Glina, launched an SA-6 surface-to-air missile that passed over the village of Donje Dubrave, and exploded on impact in the village of Malik, near Trošmarije, creating a 6-metre-wide impact crater.

The Republic of Croatia would like to emphasize the fact that these sophisticated Russian-produced missiles were not in the arsenal of the paramilitary forces in the occupied territories. We cannot but conclude that their transportation from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has been allowed, and that they are at present not under the control of the peace-keepers on the ground in accordance with the Zagreb Agreement. It is further clear that the border of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) with the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is not sealed, which should be taken into account in the upcoming consideration of resolution 970 (1995).

In respect of the above, the Government of the Republic of Croatia finds it absolutely necessary that the Security Council consider this issue in a statement. Croatia has so far not responded to the attacks that certainly surpass the level of everyday provocations and, in case they should be repeated, the Croatian Army shall be compelled to take all necessary defensive measures in this regard.

Furthermore, this development may be detrimental to the peace process in general, in particular at this sensitive junction of deployment of the new peace-keeping force to the Republic of Croatia.

(Signed) Mate Granić
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure